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**SAN MANUEL LAUNCHES ENHANCED CHARITABLE GIVING PROGRAM  
AND ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS AT ANNUAL FORGING HOPE  
EVENT**

***Tribe Bestows Inaugural Yawa' Awards to Best-In-Class Charities and Announces  
\$5.6 Million in New Gifts at Non-Profit Luncheon***

**San Bernardino, Calif. March 30, 2010**—The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians held its second annual Forging Hope Luncheon at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino today. The luncheon drew together non-profit groups from the greater philanthropic community for an awards ceremony at which the inaugural Yawa' Award was bestowed upon several charities leading into the announcement of major new gifts and the unveiling of a new enhanced charitable giving program.

***Yawa' is a word and concept in the Tribe's native Serrano Language that calls for one to act on their beliefs.***

Among major gifts announced at the luncheon are a \$3.7 Million gift to the University of Redlands, establishing an endowed chair in Native American Studies and a collaborative lifelong learning pilot program to support planning, policy and educational outreach. The tribe awarded \$600,000 to the Community Hospital of San Bernardino to meet increasing needs and expand capacity through the purchase of surgical equipment. Additionally, the tribe has made a donation of \$500,000 to the Dorothy Ramon Learning Center based in Banning, Calif., a non-profit that is dedicated to saving and sharing Southern California Indian Culture.

“Sharing has always been integral to the culture of the Yuhaviatam Clan of Serrano Indians (San Manuel) and it is in this tradition that we gather here today,” said San Manuel Chairman James Ramos. “The Tribe is pleased to unveil the first Yawa' Awards and an enhanced charitable giving program to carrying forward our culture of sharing into the future.”

Seen as a milestone in the Tribe's philanthropic giving, tribal leadership used this opportunity to unveil a renewed charitable-giving effort with four defined program areas, richer website content and an online application process. Those recipient charities that embody the concept of Yawa' and are models of excellence in the program areas of health, education, economic development and special projects include the following groups:

In the health program area, the San Bernardino based Inland Empire Chapter of the American Red Cross, whose partnership with the tribe began with a \$500,000 donation in response to the attacks of 9/11 and has continued through disasters both local and global.

In the education program area, the American Indian College Fund which disburses approximately 6,000 scholarships annually for American Indian students. . Established in 1989 with the mission to transform American Indian higher education by funding and creating awareness of accredited, community-based tribal colleges and universities, the American Indian College Fund has become the nation's largest provider of private scholarships for American Indian students.

Havsu' Baaja (Havasupai Tribe) of Arizona was presented the Yawa' Award in the economic development program area. In 2008 the tribe partnered with San Manuel and others to rebuild its tourism economy following a torrential flood through its Grand Canyon homelands.

In the special projects program area, the Second Harvest Food Bank serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties was recognized for its distribution of over 1.9 million pounds of food every month to regional food pantries. In 2009 the tribe made a gift of 5 new semi trucks allowing the bank to upgrade its distribution fleet and meet new air quality standards.

In Memoriam of the passing of its long time director Amparo Olguin, the Home of Neighborly Service was be presented a special Yawa' Award in for its 88 years of service to San Bernardino and adjacent communities.

San Manuel has contributed some \$40 million to charities since 2001. Through partnerships with charitable organizations and community groups San Manuel honors the ancestral Serrano value of sharing resources with others.

### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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